

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Natchitoches met in legal and regular session at the Natchitoches Arts Center, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana on Monday, September 10, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Lee Posey
Councilman At Large Don Mims, Jr.
Councilmen David Stamey, Dale Nielsen and Larry Payne
Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Bukar Ibn Mohammed, Ms. Faye Josey, Dr. Coleen Landcaster, Ms. Stewart, Walt Moore and Ms. Claire Weaver.

Absent: None.

Mayor Lee Posey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Michael Braxton was asked to lead the invocation and Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow was asked to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Posey announced Mr. Turner passed away this morning. Mayor Posey also stated we have recently lost Marilyn Lawson and Janelle DeVargas. Mayor Posey asked the council keep these families in their prayers, and further stated these were all very active people of our community.

Mayor Posey next brought the reading and approval of the minutes of the August 27, 2012 meeting. Dale Nielson moved we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Sylvia Morrow. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Payne, Nielson, Mims, Stamey, Morrow.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Natchitoches City Council will have a pre-council meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. to discuss non-agenda items. The City Council meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month and will be reserved to only items on the Agenda. The public is invited to both the pre-council meetings and council meetings with the understanding that items not on the agenda will not be discussed at the scheduled council meetings, but the public is welcome to discuss any topic at the pre-council meetings.

**NATCHITOCHES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012
5:30 P.M.**

A G E N D A

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2012**
5. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**
Sylvia Morrow Mr. Bukar Ibn Mohammed- Louisiana Rural Water Association Award
6. **PROCLAMATIONS:**
 #078 Stamey Resolution Declaring National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Faye Hobley – The Office of Behavioral Health of Natchitoches)

 #079 Nielsen Resolution Declaring September 17 Through September 23, 2012 As Constitution Week (Dr. Colleen Lancaster)

 #080 Morrow Resolution Proclaiming Carey Casey Day On Behalf Of The Women's Resource Center (Becky Stewart, Claire Weaver and Walt Moore)
7. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Pat Jones, Finance Director
8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Garbage - Recycling
9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (318) 352-2772 describing the assistance that is necessary.

If you wish to address the Council, please complete the "[Request to Address City Council](#)" form located on the entrance table.

Ms. Morrow next introduced Mr. Bukar Ibn Mohammed. Mr. Mohammed is an employee of the City of Natchitoches and came to us from Nigeria. Ms. Morrow read from a newspaper dated August 12, 2012, an article entitled "Water System Wins Applause" at which time Mr. Mohammed was nominated as Water Treatment Operator for the State of Louisiana Water Conference. Ms. Morrow stated that she is very proud of Mr. Mohammed and he was rated one of the best of the rural water association and that is why we are spot lighting him tonight. Ms. Morrow further stated we appreciate what he is doing for the City of Natchitoches and also for Clarence. Mr. Morrow presented Mr. Mohammed with a certificate and congratulated Mr. Mohammed. Ms. Morrow also introduced Mr. Mohammed's wife. Mr. Mohammed stated he is a 32 year resident of Natchitoches and came here directly from Nigeria. He further thanked the Council. Mr. Mohammed stated he works for Mr. Wimberly at the Sewer Department. He stated this journey has not been easy but has been rewarding. He explained for those who are not familiar, Louisiana Rural Water trains everyone for being a water and sewer operator. They are divided into two parts, North and South. We are in North Louisiana. There are about 150 water systems they govern. Mr. Mohammed thanked Bryan Wimberly for the opportunity for giving him the platform for doing what he wanted to do. He further stated he will do anything to assure the water we drink and use is the best possible and the water discharged is at its very best. Ms. Morrow also thanked Mr. Bryan Wimberly.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Stamey and Seconded by Mr. Payne as follows, to -wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 078 OF 2012

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL
ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH**

WHEREAS, recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness are possible through a variety of treatment resources and recovery support programs; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people across the United States are living happy, healthy, and productive lives in recovery; and

WHEREAS, substance use and mental disorders are serious public health problems; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, 4.3 million people received treatment for a substance use disorder and 30.2 million people from a mental health problem (*2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*), we must continue to reach the millions more who need help; and

WHEREAS, resources exist in our community to increase people's awareness about how substance use disorders and mental illness affect children, families, and our society; and

WHEREAS, such education is essential in overcoming misconceptions and achieving long-term recovery; and

WHEREAS, to help achieve this goal, The Office of Behavioral Health of Natchitoches invites all residents of Natchitoches to participate in **National Recovery Month**; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee Posey, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2012 as *National Recovery Month: Prevention Works, Treatment is Effective, People Recover* in Natchitoches and call our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year's theme, *"Join the Voices for Recovery: It's Worth It!"*

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES:	Stamey, Payne, Nielsen, Mims, Morrow
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Lee Posey declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this the 10th day of September, 2012.



LEE POSEY, MAYOR

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Nielsen and Seconded by Ms. Morrow as follows, to – wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 079 OF 2012

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 23, 2012 AS CONSTITUTION WEEK**

WHEREAS, on September 17, 1787, delegates of the United States to the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution and sent it to the states for ratification; and

WHEREAS, the states, in the collective wisdom of their citizens, insisted on appending a Bill of Rights to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in remembrance of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of the Americans who strive to uphold the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the U. S. Congress in 1952 designated September 17 as **Citizenship Day**, and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956, requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee Posey, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, do hereby proclaim **September 17, 2012**, as **Citizenship Day** and **September 17 through 23, 2012** as **Constitution Week** and encourage Federal, State and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our commitment as citizens of our great Nation.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES:	Nielsen, Morrow, Payne, Mims, Stamey
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Lee Posey declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this the 10th day of September, 2012.



LEE POSEY, MAYOR

Mr. Nielson introduced Dr. Coleen Landcaster, the Director of the Daughters of Revolution, who accepted the Proclamation. Dr. Landcaster stated this happens to be the 225th year of the Constitution and this year we are celebrating the bi-centennial of Louisiana. Natchitoches will be celebrating its tri-centennial in 2014. In looking at that in relation to the founding of our country and the Constitution, Natchitoches was almost 100 years old when the Constitution was ratified. She stated she hoped everyone was excited about what we will be doing at the tri-centennial.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Morrow and Seconded by Mr. Stamey as follows, to -wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 080 OF 2012

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, The Women's Resource Center, a pregnancy help medical clinic, was founded in 1989 as a non-profit organization to offer services, assistance and guidance to young women facing difficult life situations most often due to unplanned pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Women's Resource Center became a Pregnancy Help Medical Clinic that offered material assistance as well as obstetrical, ultrasound, prenatal education, breastfeeding assistance and post partum follow-up; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Women's Resource Center consists of trained volunteers, including registered nurses, as well as the donated time of Dr. Martin Aviles who oversees medical issues of the Center; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Resource Center is the largest organization of its type and scope in Central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Resource Center will be hosting the annual "**Celebration of Life**" fundraising gala on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at the Natchitoches Events Center at which Mr. Carey Casey Chief Executive Officer of the Kansas City based National Center for Fathering will be the keynote speaker; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches wishes to honor Mr. Carey Casey in his life crusades and taking time from his busy schedule to promote the mission of the Women's Resource Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEE POSEY, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, hereby proclaim, Thursday, September 27, 2012, as

Carey Casey Day

in the City of Natchitoches in honor of the dedication and contributions of Mr. Carey Casey.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES:	Morrow, Stamey, Payne, Nielsen, Mims
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

THEREUPON, Mayor Lee Posey declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays this the 10th day of September, 2012.



LEE POSEY, MAYOR

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
GENERAL FUND BUDGET REPORT
AS OF JULY 31, 2012

	CURRENT MONTH				YEAR TO DATE			
	TOTAL BUDGET 12/13FY	MONTHLY BUDGET *1	ACTUAL	(OVER) UNDER BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUM- BRANCES	UNREALIZED AVAILABLE BALANCE	PERCENT RECEIVED/ EXPENSED
REVENUE	13,936,428	1,161,369	1,045,409	(115,960.07)	1,835,339		12,101,089	13.17%
EXPENDITURES								
DEPARTMENT:								
CITY HALL / FINANCE	538,096	44,841	36,885	7,956.47	66,931	1,786	469,380	12.77%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	691,210	57,601	49,886	7,714.87	81,553	318	609,339	11.84%
PLANNING & ZONING	244,159	20,347	19,439	907.09	31,527	918	211,713	13.29%
FIRE DEPARTMENT	2,707,610	225,634	216,330	9,304.18	393,710	3,987	2,309,913	14.69%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	4,140,329	345,027	325,319	19,708.46	553,723	2,498	3,584,108	13.43%
ANIMAL SHELTER	152,001	12,667	11,783	883.49	17,898	521	133,581	12.12%
PURCHASING	333,251	27,771	23,150	4,620.80	42,543	4,476	286,231	14.11%
CITY GARAGE	230,807	19,234	11,231	8,002.97	20,628		210,179	8.94%
RECREATION *2	870,369	72,531	91,657	(19,126.65)	177,034	5,837	687,498	21.01%
PUBLIC WORKS	1,434,011	119,501	108,637	10,864.28	178,053	24,413	1,231,545	14.12%
INDIRECT EXPENSE	2,377,163	198,097	141,221	56,875.91	653,014	20,500	1,703,649	28.33%
PROGRAMMING & PROMOTIONS	217,422	18,119	11,289	6,829.93	20,288	300	196,834	9.47%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	13,936,428	1,161,369	1,046,827	114,541.79	2,236,903	65,555	11,633,970	16.52%

FOOTNOTES:

*1 - 1/12th OF TOTAL BUDGET

*2 - SEASONAL ACTIVITY

% BUDGET YEAR ELAPSED 17%

% BUDGET EXPENDED 17%

CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
UTILITY (PROPRIETARY) FUND BUDGET REPORT
AS OF JULY 31, 2012

CURRENT MONTH				YEAR TO DATE			
			(OVER)				
TOTAL			UNDER	YTD	ENCUM-	UNREALIZED /	PERCENT
BUDGET	MONTHLY		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BRANCES	AVAILABLE	RECEIVED/
12/13 FY	BUDGET *1	ACTUAL				BALANCE	EXPENSED
REVENUE							
40,687,097	3,390,591	3,116,738	(273,853)	6,142,551		34,544,546	15.10%
EXPENDITURES							
DEPARTMENT:							
UTILITY ADMINISTRATION	298,841	24,903	38,474	53,951	11,215	233,675	21.81%
WATER	2,056,551	171,379	141,359	240,733	33,489	1,782,329	13.33%
SEWER	1,535,476	127,956	97,354	198,638	11,599	1,325,239	13.69%
ELECTRIC	27,051,283	2,254,274	2,002,709	2,124,129	10,396	24,916,759	7.89%
UTILITY BILLING	611,633	50,969	40,544	75,749	177	535,708	12.41%
INFORMATION TECH	325,453	27,121	18,814	29,891	22,490	273,072	16.09%
INDIRECT	8,807,860	733,988	636,713	1,789,827	29,006	6,989,027	20.65%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND	40,687,097	3,390,591	414,623	4,512,917	118,372	36,055,808	11.38%

FOOTNOTES:

*1 - 1/12th OF TOTAL BUDGET

% BUDGET YEAR ELAPSED 17%

% BUDGET EXPENDED 11%

NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE CUSTOMERS

Effective immediately, yard waste collection must conform to the standards of the Ward's Waste contract agreement. The Public Works department will no longer pick up non-compliant yard waste.

- Yard waste should be placed no more than 7 feet from the curbside.
- If a resident hires a tree trimming or lawn maintenance service, this contractor is responsible for the disposal of yard waste.
- Do not allow grass clippings, leaves, etc. to remain on city sidewalks, streets, storm drains or gutters after mowing or other yard maintenance.

Grass Clippings:

- Grass Clippings should be bagged.
- Cannot be larger than 33 gallons in capacity or 50 pounds in weight.

Brush and Branches:

- Brush and branches must be bundled.
- Cannot be larger than 50 pounds in weight, 3 inches in diameter, and 4 feet in length.

Note: A notice will be placed on the homeowner's door if their yard waste is found to be non-compliant.

Any questions related to this notice should be directed to the Public Works department at 318-357-3875. For detailed information regarding the residential garbage requirements, please visit the City of Natchitoches website at www.natchitochesla.gov or access our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CityofNatchitoches.



• Recyclables -- what goes in blue can?

Ms. Morrow stated the Women's Resource Center will be hosting the annual "Celebration of Life" fundraising gala with Mr. Carey Casey, Chief Executive Office of the Kansas City based National Center for Fathering as the keynote speaker. Ms. Morrow stated she would like the City of Natchitoches to honor Mr. Casey for his life crusades and taking time to promote the mission of the Women's Resource Center.

Ms. Morrow introduced Ms. Stewart and Walt Moore. Ms. Morrow stated they do a wonderful job. Ms. Morrow presented this proclamation to Ms. Stewart. Ms. Stewart introduced Mr. Walt Moore, the President of the association and Ms. Claire Weaver. Ms. Stewart stated she is honored that the City honor's their guest speakers for this event. Ms. Stewart stated Mr. Casey is quiet extraordinary and he is a huge advocate for promoting responsible fatherhood. He is a former Chaplin for Dallas Cowboys and Kansas City Chief's; he was at the 1988 Olympics, 2009 White House Task Force for Fatherhood and Help for Families. He is the author of two books. He will also be doing a presentation at Natchitoches Central High School. The Women's Resource Center reaches out to young women with unplanned pregnancies. Ms. Stewart stated we are there to help these young women there is no other establishment like this from Shreveport to Baton Rouge. The center sees these girls up to 7 times before the child is born. The center is pro-life and offers alternatives to abortion. Ms. Stewart introduced Ms. Claire Weaver. Ms. Weaver stated this is her sixth year as a volunteer and the 5th year as chairman for the gala. Ms. Weaver stated this community has always been there for the center to give these women what they need. This gala is where their funds come from. Ms. Weaver stated if you've never been, come and you will come every year. The community pens up their hearts and their pocketbook and let us continue for the next year. Ms. Weaver stated the gala is every 4th Thursday of September. It is a wonderful night and Ms. Weaver asked everyone to be there for these ladies and their unborn children. Mr. Walt Moore thanked the Council for the attention the City gives the center. Mr. Moore stated the Women's Resource Center is a bright spot for this city and an asset for Natchitoches. Mr. Moore stated it has been his pleasure to support financially and with his time the Women's Resource Center. Mr. Moore again thanked the City for the proclamation and the attention the City gives the center.

Mayor Posey thanked them for what they do for this community.

Mr. Pat Jones next presented the Financial Report. Mr. Jones directed the Council to the General Fund Budget Report for July 31, 2012. Mr. Jones stated the revenues are at 13% and expenditures at 16.5%. The Recreation Department is a little high at 21% of their budget but that is normal due to summer programs. The indirect expenditure is high because we made a 100% transfer of our liability funds to pay our premiums as we do every year instead of doing that monthly. The Utility Fund revenues are at 15% and expenditures at 11%. Mr. Jones reported the auditors are still here with the City and going through accounts payable and payroll at this time. Mr. Jones stated they will then go into each department and look at transactions by department. Mr. Jones stated we will be receiving the next tax report September 19th and we are anxiously waiting to see the results. We also have our bonding attorney reviewing our bonds to refresh our savings. When we looked in January, we did not have very much savings but the interest rates have dropped even more so they are revisiting that for us to see if there is any savings in refinancing our bonds.

Mr. Jones stated we have finished up our online bill pay for our utility customers and is currently being tested. Mr. Jones explained our customer service employees and the IT department have the software and it is working well. We are going to try to advertise it in the next billing cycle. Mr. Jones stated we are looking forward to this and it is something he has wanted to do for several years. Mr. Jones explained if you go to the Natchitoches website you will see the link and as of Friday you can register for online bill pay.

Mr. Edwin Creighton asked Mr. Jones if he was able to tell if the City, in relation to last year, finished in the red or black. Mr. Jones stated in the black. Mr. Creighton asked how much. Mr. Jones stated we closed the books with approximately \$25,000 for the fiscal year in the General

Fund and we finished last year in the Utility Fund with a balance. Mr. Creighton said congratulations on the online billing. Mr. Creighton stated so there was \$25,000.00 balance at the end of the year? Mr. Jones stated that is correct.

Mr. Creighton asked how much was made from the Christmas Festival last year. Mr. Jones stated he did not have those figures. Mr. Creighton asked if he could get this information from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Jones stated he wasn't sure. Mr. Creighton again asked if he could get this information from the Chamber. Mr. Jones stated that he didn't know. Mr. Creighton stated it should be public information since it is a public event. Mr. Jones stated the Chamber is a private organization. Mr. Creighton asked if the festival is owned by the City or the Chamber. Mr. Jones stated that the Chamber actually puts on the festival and collects the entry fees and vendor fees and pays the bills, not the City. The City installs the lights, helps with clean up, police and fire support but the City of Natchitoches is not in charge of the festival. Mr. Creighton stated this is a private event although it is called the City of Natchitoches and owned by a private entity with no connection to the City. Mr. Jones stated he wasn't sure if the Chamber would continue this event.

Ms. Morrow asked what the City's role is with the Christmas parade. Mayor Posey explained the Chamber runs the event and the City provides the services it always has. Mayor Posey stated they pay for fireworks, sounds, floats and that sort of thing. Ms. Morrow asked about the turning on of the lights because she has noticed City employees connected with this. Ms. Morrow said she discussed this with the Chamber and a City Council member. If the Historic District Committee is going to be handling this parade then the City may need to be taken out all together. Ms. Morrow stated she doesn't understand the City employees being on the stage that night and we don't have a voice in it. Mr. Jones stated Ms. Morrow was confusing the Christmas Festival with the one night ceremony of "Turning on the Lights". Mr. Jones asked if Ms. Morrow was talking about the festival or the lighting ceremony. Ms. Morrow stated she was talking about the parade first of all, there is no way the Council Members can all ride in one car. Mr. Morrow stated she had some problems with turning on the lights because if we are going to have City employees on the stage presiding, then that brings about a problem because the Mayor said the City didn't have anything to do with it. Mr. Jones said the City has nothing to do with the Christmas Festival. The turning on of the lights is sponsored by the City.

Mr. Creighton stated this brings up an interesting question, if the Chamber of Commerce owns the festival, that is the parade, but not the turning on of the light, then what does the City do. The City does nothing to help the Chamber with the festival? Mr. Jones asked what he meant, to help? Mr. Creighton stated, well you have policemen for one thing. Mr. Jones said, yes, we have policemen, and our fire department, which help and protect the City. Mr. Creighton asked then what role does the City play. Mr. Creighton continued the Chamber is using the City streets, am I right? If the City owns the streets and the City pays the policemen and pays the workers, The Chamber is not doing everything themselves, they are using the City and entities owned by the City and they are taking that money and it's their money. Are they paying anything, besides taxes, which all businesses pay? What does the City get out of it financially?

Mr. Ronald Corkern stated that presumably the City gets increased revenue through taxes because it brings several hundred thousand people into the City, all of whom are eating in restaurants, buying stuff downtown or elsewhere, spending money and paying sales taxes. Mr. Creighton asked if the City receives a cut of the arm band sales. Mayor Posey stated this year we have asked any money derived from the Christmas Festival, be put back into the Christmas Festival for future festivals. Mayor Posey stated Mr. Corkern is exactly right, we do derive a lot from the festival, whether from festival day or the festival season. Mayor Posey continued every other weekend we have twenty thousand people down there and the merchants will tell you they actually make more on those other weekends. Mayor Posey continued people have challenged us as to why we got into that, but this is what helps us bring sales to our city. Through December, we were almost somewhere in the neighborhood of four hundred thousand ahead in sales tax, and once we got into the new year it dropped.

Mayor Posey stated years ago there was a festival committee that ran everything and over a period of time that evolved more into the Chamber doing it, this year they have a festival committee. The HDBA is going to be the one handling the money and other things as well. They are going to give us a cut, they are still paying bills, but the City has the same presents we always have between hanging the lights, the safety of our community and all the things we've always been involved with, we just don't want to get any deeper and spend any more money from the City at this point. We have ceased doing that. Mr. Creighton stated he thinks it is important the City get some kind of cut. Mr. Creighton continued he just wanted to make sure, if people are using our property, our stuff, that we should get a cut. It's business. We, the people, are the owner of this business and I appreciate it, however that came about, we are going to get some money right now. At the same time we don't want to turn off the people who can bring in the money. The sales tax brings in a lot of money, but there has got to be a balance and that's the point. Ms. Morrow thanked Mr. Jones for explaining this to her.

Mayor Posey next moved to the garbage and recycling. Mayor Posey asked if there was anything that needed to be added to the form that will be placed in the utility bills.

Mr. Creighton asked if recycling is a private company or does the City do that. Mr. Creighton asked what the process is. He stated we put our recyclables into the bin, there is a process where someone is making money on this, at the end of the day. Mayor Posey stated we thought this was the case but that is not happening here. Mayor Posey stated we have so many customers not using the bins correctly, so we are trying to build on that so we can build up our numbers of recycling and so when we get ready to bid a new contract, hopefully we can get the best rate possible. Mr. Creighton asked if there is a private company or does the City take the recycled stuff to sell it. Mayor Posey stated it was in the contract. Mr. Creighton stated Ward's Waste Service has a contract with the City, and Pratt in Shreveport has a contract with the City, and they have a contract to haul off the stuff and then they sell it and make money.

Mayor Posey stated we used Pratt Industries in Shreveport and there was initially a little money in it. In around 2008 the market crashed. Pratt invested in this big machine that sorts the recyclables, so we are able to throw it all in one bin and Ward's Waste Service takes it to Shreveport. Pratt is still accepting the recyclables. We are doing the right thing by recycling as it helps reduce the general sanitation waste which is tonnage that goes to the land field. The blue bins need to have recyclables in them, the green bins need to have garbage, the blue bins need to be fuller than the green bins at the end of the day, and this is what we are trying to get the citizens of the City to do. We can hold our price if we can increase the amount of recyclables, even though we are not making money on it. Mr. Creighton asked if the company in Shreveport is making money or not. Mayor Posey stated he does not know, he's just glad they accept our single strand recyclables. Mr. Creighton stated he would like to know where the money goes, if there is any way we can get some of that money back to help our community and then that would be more of a motivation for me to separate the items.

Mr. Creighton stated if the City found a way to work with Pratt and see if they will offer our citizen some incentive to do this, because really there is no incentive. Mr. Creighton continued that another thing is that he thinks we have a right to know more about where the money is going, how much money and he can't get any information on that. Mr. Creighton challenged the Council to let him know where the money is going. Mr. Creighton suggested to the Council they ask Pratt to tell us where the money is.

Mr. David Stamey stated he believes what has happened is that one of the few items in recyclables making money is cardboard. You notice people don't pick up cans anymore, because there is no money in it. When I get a cardboard box I put it in my blue bin. Obviously there is money in cardboard, plastic does bring money, glass doesn't bring money, and cans doesn't bring money. With cardboard being the one potential, our citizens don't create enough cardboard to even buy a bailer.

Mr. Stamey stated cardboard mostly comes out of the commercial market, behind Walmart and Brookshires. Mr. Stamey stated five, six or maybe seven years ago would have been a fair question and I think the City would be getting something back. Mr. Stamey explained right now we are just happy to have somewhere to take it. Otherwise we would have to take it to our land field and it costs money to put it in the land field. I don't think there is a mystery behind it right now. With the recycling industry struggling a little bit, there is not a lot of money in it right now.

Mr. Creighton stated it was a mystery to us, as citizens, because no one has ever told us. Mr. Creighton continued the City takes it upon themselves to know, and he would like to have some sort of report. Mr. Creighton stated he thinks the City could document what was said tonight so if a citizen wants to know, they can pick up a copy of that document.

Mr. Corkern stated in theory, I suspect that everyone would agree, but in reality it is not as easy as it sounds. The company in Shreveport is a private company, so if you go to them and ask them how much money they are making, they are going to say it is none of your business. We then say to them, well if you don't tell us how much money you are making then we will just send our stuff somewhere else. And they say to us terrific, we will be glad for you to send it somewhere else. And then we say to them, oh we were just teasing. That is the position we have been in the past with this company. I'm not saying that is their position today, I haven't asked and I haven't looked into it but that is part of the problem. In the past the company in Shreveport got to the point that they really didn't care if they got our waste or not and we had nothing we could threaten them with like we will just take our business somewhere else, because their attitude was great, take it, and that is because there is nowhere else to take it.

Mr. Creighton stated he still thinks its bad policy not to be able to know what is happening when you make a contract with somebody. Mr. Creighton stated he would not make a contract with anybody and not know. I think there is a fair solution here and I'm not a politician to figure it out, but I am a citizen and I am concerned. If you don't do it right now, because you feel like your relationship is so shaky that you are going to them with your hat in hand, and that's what you are really saying. In the next contract, put it in the contract and say we need to show our citizen how things work. Why isn't that reasonable? Why isn't it reasonable for us to come down to these meetings, which by the way happen too early right now, and that is a thing I will take up at another meeting. People are working. If I was working I couldn't get here. Mayor Posey stated sir, let me interrupt you at this point. Mr. Creighton stated okay, okay, well I will note that.

Mayor Posey stated Mr. Creighton has spoken long enough and he would like to tell Mr. Creighton something. Mr. Creighton stated Mayor Posey talked a long time too. Mayor Posey stated we have a three minute limit and we have listened and listened. Mayor Posey advised Mr. Creighton could come into his office any day of the week and he would be glad to visit with him about anything. Mr. Creighton stated he was trying to ask a question and the Mayor interrupted him. Mayor Posey stated he was just saying this is exactly what we are trying to do is communicate with the public so we can save a little money on the future contracts. Our job is to get the best possible contract for the garbage and recycling and he can't help the recycling market. This is happening everywhere.

Mr. Creighton stated he doesn't apologize to the Mayor or any one on this Council for coming down to the meeting as a citizen when he needed a question answered. Mr. Creighton stated as for the three minute limit, he will respect that as much as he can.

Ms. Morrow stated she would like to say we want to be sure we respect our citizens when they come down here to speak. National Night Out will be October the 2nd at Martin Luther King Center and it starts at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Morrow explained National Night Out is an event, a night against crime and they will serve light refreshments and a letter has been given out by Ms. Gayle Jones for them to take out and get contributions.

Ms. Morrow stated it seems she went to the wrong people and they went behind her back and went to the ethics board instead of coming to her. Ms. Morrow continued she thinks, when we live in a city where we know everybody, everybody knows how much she works. There are some people here that work for the City of Natchitoches that have a lot behind their name and nothing never was done. Ms. Morrow further stated she thinks we need to be fair with these people to come and work and she can't buy the refreshments out of her pocket. A letter was given for us to go to different people to get donations for the National Night Out.

Ms. Morrow stated she knows for a fact a Mayor gave contributions out and she's saying if you feel she is coming to the wrong person, tell her that you are within the City. Ms. Morrow further stated the City and Parish are partners. She thought we were all working together. You've got the police department, the fire department at National Night Out, you've got the police department serving for her. Ms. Morrow stated she has so many people up there, the police help her serve. And then she has a serious problem when somebody is trying to put a rope around her neck because you don't like her. Ms. Morrow stated there are plenty of people in here she don't like, but she has a job to do. Ms. Morrow stated she was sent down here to represent the people and she doesn't like it when she has gone to somebody to get a contribution, and she goes to the wrong person and they go to the ethics board on her instead of coming to her. Ms. Morrow stated her National Night Out will be October 2nd and I will be very cognizant as to where I goes for my contribution. Ms. Morrow stated she will present her letter but she certainly will be careful and if you are low enough to go the ethics board on her, then she doesn't want you doing no work in her district.

Mayor Posey stated there is one other area he needs to communicate with everyone about. Mayor Posey stated we are going to try to do something to keep our mosquito population down. Mayor Posey asked Edd Lee to explain what we are planning to do. Mayor Posey stated he appreciated Edd and all the City employees who helped put this all together and it will be good for the community.

Mr. Lee explained they have been working for several days now, because of the news about West Nile Virus, where areas like Dallas, a few places in North Louisiana such as Bossier, Ouachita, even South Louisiana, Florida and a lot of places are spraying by airplane the chemicals to kill the mosquitoes. We started investigating that. Because of the recent hurricane we are in a position where we can received some benefit or some help from FEMA with the cost.

Right now FEMA is looking at paying 75% of the cost for the aerial application of this chemical. The chemical is called Dibrom, which is made for attacking mosquitoes. The rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce per acre. It's concentrated and you dilute it with water and put it in the plane. We are looking at spraying about 7,500 acres which is the populated area of the city limits. These folks do this for a living, they own their own airplane, they have all their insurance, they are a safe company. Right now they are doing a lot of spraying in Louisiana. They have a regional office in Allen Parish and we hope to get this spraying done here within the next five to ten days. Hopefully we can keep the number of cases of West Nile Virus down here in the City.

Ms. Morrow asked if they plan to spray the ditches. Mr. Edd Lee explained that it would be aerial application by the uses of airplanes. They will fly 300 feet above ground level and by doing this it gets everything. Right now you will occasionally see the parish spray and they will drive down the street and they do a good job but this will get to places where spraying from the street typically doesn't get. It will cover the entire city.

Ms. Morrow asked about the areas near The Natchitoches Times. Ms. Morrow stated she thinks Mr. Lee has had a chance to go out there where the Ben Johnson Park is. There is water in the ditches that won't move strictly because there are people not doing their job by cleaning the ditch area out and running an apparatus through it, but she is saying they have large mosquitoes and water standing with algae in it that needs to be cleaned and we need to find a way, if you're going to bring the Health Department in to fly the planes over, then try to see if you can find a

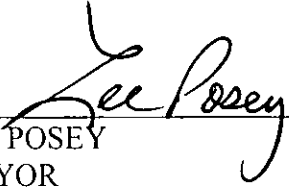
way to get something done about these ditches. Ms. Morrow continues they have so many in District 3 and she is just speaking about her district; Natchitoches Thomas area out there by the park; down on Fairgrounds Road; by the Housing Authority all the way down.

Mr. Lee stated as a part of this project, we do sampling. We set out traps to catch mosquitoes before spraying and put out traps afterwards to see how effective spraying was. Mr. Lee stated he would like to get with Ms. Morrow and have her show him exactly where she is talking about and we will put something out there to use as a sample and we will see how well we do. Mr. Lee explained this is a very specific chemical and its made to effect mosquitoes.

Mayor Posey explained they will do this in the afternoon and hopefully we will not have strong winds next week because they will not apply it if the wind is too strong and they have a certain way they apply it.

Mayor Posey continued we are going to try to let the public know what we are doing so they will know on a certain night next week that we will be doing this application. They are spraying other cities that are having results from it and he thinks it will be another thing we can help our citizen's with. Mr. Creighton asked how do you know this is safe? Is it non-cancerous? And how can we prove that? Edd Lee explained it has been used all over the country and it has been used for a long time and he is not a chemist so he can't break down the chemical and prove to Mr. Creighton other than to say it is tried and true and it works. Mr. Creighton asked Mr. Lee if he would release some information about chemical. Mr. Lee stated he would be happy to get an aerial safety data sheet for him and it will have all breakdowns of the chemicals. Mr. Creighton asked if when they start this process of doing this could they put this information in the community centers, make it available to people, post it and make the people know this is happening. Mr. Lee explained we are going to let the people know. Ms. Morrow stated she thinks Ms. Barrios at the Council on Aging has a two page flyer she puts out and she believe it's about the same type of information and she thinks that Mr. Lee might need to get with Ms. Barrios because she thinks they already have a two page flyer out. Mr. Creighton stated there is a reason why he wanted this information on all these chemicals because we need to know what is going on in this community because he has noticed sometimes failure to communicate and the reason he has a problem with this Council is because of these empty seats. Mayor Posey stated just let us do our job and further asked if there were anything else.

With no further discussion, Mr. Nielsen moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Mims. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.


LEE POSEY
MAYOR


DON MIMS
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE